

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1 – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A converting apparatus for converting content into a predetermined format, comprising:

a memory for receiving and for storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content from a contents server; ~~said content and said content information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said memory;~~

first obtaining means for obtaining information on a format suitable for a terminal; and

converting means for converting the content into the format suitable for said terminal based on the content-information signal and said information obtained by said first obtaining means;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

said converting means converts the content based on the coding difficulty information.

18. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes information indicating a motion compensation difficulty of the content.

19. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes a parameter indicating inter-frame correlation of the content.

20. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes a search range of a motion regarding motion compensation of the content.

21. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes information indicating a compression difficulty of the content in the space domain.

22. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes an intra-coding difficulty when each frame of the content is intra-coded.

23. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the content-information signal includes the coding difficulty information in segment units, segments being obtained by dividing the content.

24. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the content-information signal includes normalized coding difficulty information.

25. (Currently Amended) A converting method for converting content into a predetermined format, comprising:

a storing step of receiving the content from a contents server at a memory and storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content in said memory, ~~said content and said content-information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said memory;~~

obtaining step of obtaining information on a format suitable for a terminal; and

a converting step of converting the content into the format suitable for said terminal based on the content-information signal and said information obtained in said obtaining step;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

in said converting step, the content is converted based on the coding difficulty information.

26. (Currently Amended) A reading terminal for converting content into a predetermined format and reading the content, comprising:

a first memory for receiving and for storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content from a contents server; ~~said content and said content information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said first memory;~~

a second memory for storing a format suitable for said reading terminal;

converting means for converting the content into the format suitable for said reading terminal based on the content-information signal; and

reading means for reading the converted content;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

said converting means converts the content based on the coding difficulty information.

27. (Currently Amended) A reading method for a reading terminal for converting content into a predetermined format and reading the content, the method comprising:

a first storing step of receiving the content from a contents server at a first memory and storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content in said first memory; ~~said content and said content information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said first memory;~~

a second storing step of storing a format suitable for said reading terminal in a second memory;

a converting step of converting the content into [[a]] the format suitable for said reading terminal based on the content-information signal; and

a reading step of reading the converted content;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

in said converting step, the content is converted based on the coding difficulty information.